Message Text

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TAGS: EIND EINV VE

SUBJECT: OWENS-ILLINOIS NATIONALIZATION-STATEMENT BY

GOV NEGOTIATOR

REF.: CARACAS 12482

1. ROBERTO SALAS CAPRILES, PRESIDENT OF THE VENEZUELAN GLASS INDUSTRY COUNCIL AND CHIEF NEGOTIATOR FOR THE GOV WITH REGARD TO THE NATIONALIZATION OF OWENS-ILLINOIS, TOLD THE ECONOMY COMMITTEE OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES OCTOBER 28 THAT OWENS-ILLINOIS IS CONTINUING TO OPERATE NORMALLY. SALAS CONFIRMED THAT OWENS-ILLINOIS' PRODUCTION HAD NOT DROPPED FOLLOWING THE GOV'S DECISION TO NATIONALIZE

THE COMPANY AND THAT OWENS-ILLINOIS' OUTPUT OF GLASS CONTAINERS HAD INCREASED. THE COMMITTEE HEARD TESTIMONY FROM SALAS AND TWO OTHER INDUSTRIALISTS CONCERNING THE REPORTED GLASS SHORTAGE (REFTEL).

2. REFERRING TO THE GOV'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH OWENS-ILLINOIS, SALAS STATED THAT THE TWO SIDES WERE STILL FAR APART ON A PRICE FOR OWENS-ILLINOIS' SHARES, BUT THAT CONTACTS WERE CONTINUING. CONCERNING FUTURE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, SALAS SAID THAT "THE IDEAL WOULD BE TO CONTINUE WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM OWENS-ILLINOIS, BUT UNDER CONDITIONS FAVORABLE TO THE NATIONAL INTEREST." RESPONDING TO A QUESTION FROM THE COMMITTEE, SALAS DENIED THAT OWENS-ILLINOIS WAS PRESSURING THE GOV. "IF THEY PRESSURE US, WE SHALL LOOK TO OTHER SOURCES FOR TECHNOLOGY," HE ADDED. UNCLASSIFIED

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3. CARLOS VOGELER RINCONES, PRESIDENT OF THE VENEZUELAN GLASS CHAMBER, INDICATED THAT THE INDUSTRY CURRENTLY HAS A MANUFACTURING CAPACITY OF 380,000 TONS PER YEAR, OF WHICH BETWEEN 220,000 AND 230,000 TONS ARE OF BOTTLES AND JARS. AS THE DEMAND FOR GLASS CONTAINERS IS APPROXIMATELY 260,000 TONS PER YEAR, THERE IS A DEFICIT OF 30,000 TO 40,000 TONS. THIS VOGELER TERMED A "TRADITIONAL DEFICIT" DUE TO THE NEED TO IMPORT CERTAIN TYPES OF BOTTLES, SUCH AS CATSUP BOTTLES. HE ESTIMATED THAT OWENS-ILLINOIS PRODUCES 70 PERCENT OF VENEZUELA'S GLASS CONTAINERS. SALAS ADDED THAT THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO GLASS PRODUCTION IS "CRITICAL, BUT NOT DRAMATIC." OF MORE CONCERN, SALAS SAID, IS THE RAPID GROWTH IN DEMAND. VAKY

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